

What is claimed is:

1. An information comparison display apparatus for displaying results of comparison  
5 between a plurality of pieces of input information by using a plurality of colors, comprising:

an input information processing unit receiving the pieces of input information;

10 an information comparing unit comparing the pieces of input information based on a plurality of predetermined comparison criteria, and determining a plurality of characteristic elements to be assigned colors;

15 a color assigning unit assigning colors corresponding to a plurality of preset default values or colors defined by each user to the pieces of input information, based on the results of comparison; and

20 a color-assigned information providing unit outputting the information, to which the colors have been assigned, to the outside.

2. The information comparison display apparatus according to claim 1, wherein:

the pieces of input information are a plurality of pieces of character-string information.

3. The information comparison display apparatus according to claim 1 or 2, wherein:

5       said information comparing unit defines elements which are common to the pieces of input information as the characteristic elements; and

10       said color assigning unit assigns the colors to the elements which are common to the pieces of input information.

4. The information comparison display apparatus according to claim 1 or 2, wherein:

15       said information comparing unit defines elements which are not common to the pieces of input information as the characteristic elements; and

20       said color assigning unit assigns the colors to the elements which are not common to the pieces of input information.

5. The information comparison display apparatus according to claim 1 or 2, wherein:

said information comparing unit compares the pieces of input information, in response to given information; and

5       said color assigning unit assigns the colors to elements corresponding to the given information, based on the results of comparison.

10       6. The information comparison display apparatus according to claim 1 or 2, further comprising:

      a color changing unit changing a color defined by a user to another color in response to data entry by the user.

15       7. The information comparison display apparatus according to claim 6, further comprising:

20       an automatic color registering unit resetting a default value corresponding to the changed color, based on a history of color changes performed by said color changing unit.

      8. The information comparison display apparatus according to claim 1 or 2, wherein:

25       the pieces of input information are a series of related information.

9. The information comparison display apparatus according to claim 8, wherein:

5 said color assigning unit assigns the colors to the series of related information, according to an amount of change in attributes of the series of related information, including change of a display position of an element of the series of related information, based on the results of comparison  
10 between the series of related information.

10. The information comparison display apparatus according to claim 1 or 2, further comprising:

15 a color-assignment data arranging unit selecting a new color, or thinning out the preset default values or data of the colors defined by each user when the number of the colors corresponding to the preset default values or the  
20 colors defined by each user does not agree with the number of colors required to display the results of comparison so that these numbers agree.

11. An information comparison display method  
25 for displaying results of comparison between a

plurality of pieces of input information by using a plurality of colors, comprising:

receiving the pieces of input information;

5 comparing the pieces of input information based on a plurality of predetermined comparison criteria, and determining a plurality of characteristic elements to be assigned colors;

10 assigning colors corresponding to a plurality of preset default values or colors defined by each user to the pieces of input information, based on the results of comparison; and

outputting the information, to which the colors have been assigned, to the outside.

15 12. A computer-readable portable storage medium on which is recorded a program for causing a computer to perform a process for displaying results of comparison between a plurality of pieces of input information by using a plurality of colors,  
20 said process comprising:

receiving the pieces of input information;

25 comparing the pieces of input information based on a plurality of predetermined comparison criteria, and determining a plurality of characteristic elements to be assigned colors;

assigning colors corresponding to a plurality of preset default values or colors defined by each user to the pieces of input information, based on the results of comparison; and

- 5        outputting the information, to which the colors have been assigned, to the outside.